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CHAS. S. CRANE,
Business Manager.

FRIDAY DECEMBER 21.

THE USES OF LANAI.

The island of Lanai, though not an attractive spot, is a garden place as compared with the valley of the Salt Lake, when the pioneer Mormons got there, and with the great central basin of California when it was visited for the first time by a United States surveying party. Nothing more desolate could be conceived than those wastes of sand and cacti. The hardest crow would starve there in summer time. "Surely," said the Mormon leaders as they looked over the desert for which they had left the promised land, "surely our enemies will not want to wrest this habitation from us." And when the surveyors went to see what California was like and ventured into the aridity and heat of the San Joaquin valley they officially reported that agriculture was hopeless there, the place being only a fit habitation for degenerate Indians, horned toads and rattlesnakes. Now, because of human energy and pluck, the Salt Lake valley is vastly productive and the San Joaquin in the volume of its grain, raisin and tree fruit output, is a choice possession of the fertile west.

Lanai, unlike these once-doubted regions, is not an original desert, but an arable tract misused. It once had trees, a good rainfall, and food supplies for this market. No doubt some of those supplies figured in the early exports to "desolate" California, that new possession which the most sanguine wisecrackers thought would never be good for anything worth the trouble of experimenting with it. Through bad management Lanai deteriorated. Sheep and perhaps goats ate the ferns which covered the earth above the shallow rootage of the mountain trees and that rootage, exposed to the direct rays of the sun, expired. Shrubs were eaten bodily. The loss of forests diminished the rainfall and such rain as came was soon dried out of the ground. Agricultural decay set in.

Now, what would the Territory find in the way of rehabilitating Lanai? It has a staff of expert Foresters, paid to make the waste places glad. These experts could put drought-resisting trees and shrubs on the heights and fence them in. Or, provision might be made for fencing off leased land and getting rid of four-footed stock on the public domain. As to the lower levels, whether reforesting is done or not, they are as good for sisal as are the dry lands of the island of Kahoolawe, where Mr. Conrad has shown the productivity of that plant. Nor is the immediate water question any more serious than it is in many California counties. We are told that if the gulch water which flows on Lanai in winter were impounded it could be distributed, at the expense of laying pipe on the surface, to most of the homes that would be built.

Ten years' work of reforestation should restore Lanai to its normal rainfall—a large enough one to nourish many products besides sisal and small enough not to harm that useful dry land commodity. Once in fit condition Lanai might soon become a hive of industry, a fine taxable asset, the home of a large colony of industrious and self-respecting American citizens.

It is time to begin this work. If the matter could be put to a vote it would carry in this Territory by an impressive majority. Powerful as our feudal lords are in council they would be as helpless at the polls as they are in the White House, to stop the development of Hawaii along traditional American lines. Gradually but surely, the small farmer—not the truck farmer, but the captain of diversified industry, is coming to his own. He is proving that, while not interfering with the legitimate interests of the planter, he can create interests of his own and, by so doing, help build up a commonwealth here which shall have as its sovereign motto, "The greatest good to the greatest number." Since this small farm agitation was begun and in which the Advertiser has taken an undiscouraged part from the beginning, the pineapple industry has had a new and sturdier birth; scientific tobacco raising has started; the coffee industry is once more looking up; sisal has proved its way; vanilla has done well on a minor scale and it has been shown that our tropical fruits can be delivered, in good condition in all the markets of the Coast. The homestead idea for laborers has been adopted. The possibility of such triumphs was denied, four years ago, almost on every hand. The poison of feudal ideas blinded all but a few far-seeing men, foremost among the latter being Hawaii's first citizen, Sanford B. Dole; but now no one is blind but those who will not see. All that remains is to segregate the public lands not needed for the sugar industry, Lanai included, and put them into the hands of co-operative agricultural colonies like that which settled at Wahiawa and, in spite of the croakers, the feudalists and the honest doubters, is now a flourishing society of well-to-do agriculturists. When the policy thus outlined comes to pass, these islands will enter into the greatest era of their prosperity.

The question now is whether the Territory shall make Lanai over into a paying proposition and get tax returns from it or whether a single man, representing the feudal idea of Hawaii's development, shall acquire the island and either benefit by restoring it himself or by selling it to some corporation.

EUROPE AND JAPAN.

The British alliance with Japan is not, as Downing street is said to have given out, to be considered binding in the event of trouble between Japan and the United States. That service is not what the treaty is for. Great Britain entered the alliance so as to have the help of Japanese troops in case that Russia should move on India and Japan became the party of the second part so as to assure the free development of her policy in Korea. No joint marauding scheme against friendly powers could have enlisted the favor of Downing street for a moment. England is for peace and commerce. Unhappily Japan has not quite reached that stage in her development. "Great Britain, but greater Japan," is a common saying among the brown men, and in considering the means by which that dignity may be reached, they are not more mindful of other people's feelings and property rights than were Caesar's legions or were the freebooting Englishmen of the seventeenth century.

People who know Japan's dominating men see in them a distinctive Roman spirit of pride, conquest and ambition. They have studied ancient and modern history to good purpose and yearn to apply its militant lessons. Believing that the white races have become effeminate they think the time may be near for the Mongol races to assert themselves in the front of the world's affairs. Brown statesmen dream of empire as the Caesars did and the common men who follow them are inflamed by their high ideals. One can not blame the Japanese for thinking and acting in the spirit of the world's most illustrious races, not only Romans but Anglo-Saxons; but at the same time, it behooves white nations, especially those that are proximate in frontiers or interests to Mongol shores, to be ready to hold their own and to prove that they are not yet degenerate.

That is the general idea expressed years ago by the Emperor William in his allegorical painting, "The Yellow Peril." Among eastern clouds he limned the hideous face of the Japanese god of war and in the foreground, facing it, he ranged the nations of Europe, armored of breast and sword of hand. The picture was prophecy by the most far-seeing of European statesmen; and since then one of the sashed and girded figures that stood beside Germania in the allegory has been felled to earth by the Japanese sword.

The common policy of Europe, Great Britain included, is one of peace. The nations are armed against each other to preserve the peace. Might it not easily come to pass that, if Japan should let her Roman spirit incline her to any war of conquest, the nations would mass against her to keep the Mikado's empire, as they keep each other, from acquiring a preponderating strength in a sphere where all of them have vital interests? England, no more than

Russia, wants Japan to become too great, for then, forgetting alliances, the little brown men might raise the cry of Asia for the Asiatics. Every European cabinet knows that, if the United States should be taken unawares in the Pacific, she could get an ally by offering her support to either of the European combinations that stand guard over one another, or to England herself. Great Britain would welcome nothing more than an alliance with the United States. She has long wanted it, but this country, following George Washington's advice, has not entangled itself with any foreign power. Perhaps to do so may become the least of evils and perhaps also, continental Europe will deem it wisest to bring Japan, whether she will or no, into the same armed covenant by which it keeps war beyond its own borders. The age of conquest, for conquest's sake, is rapidly vanishing; and the rise of a new Roman power in the East might well be deemed as intolerable to Europe as a recrudescence of piracy at sea.

A HELPLESS EMPIRE.

There would probably be no war talk in the American spheres of influence on the Pacific except for the tempting spectacle of our helplessness here. For reasons of pomp, nearly all our fighting craft have been withdrawn from these waters, to swell the Atlantic command of Rear Admiral Evans and to make a brave show at the coming Jamestown Exposition; and in the event of trouble with Japan it would take sixty days to bring our naval battle line to bear on an enemy who, in that space of time, could have safeguarded and provisioned—being always in complete readiness for such emergencies—the American outposts he had seized.

By the folly of our naval dispositions we have put ourselves in an attitude somewhat like that which, by process of treason, the United States was placed in 1861. Then the Lincoln government awoke to find that a southern navy secretary in Buchanan's cabinet had sent most of the big vessels of the fleet to distant stations. Had those frigates and sloops of war been on hand when needed, Lincoln might have prevented the capture of the Norfolk navy yard, relieved Fort Sumter and blockaded ports through which the young Confederacy was importing munitions of war. One might have thought that this lesson would have been remembered. Yet here we are at growing odds with a Pacific naval power and yet without a single battleship available and without adequate land defenses in the only insular possession out of many in which an effort has been made to fortify.

England and Germany do these things better and thus preserve the peace. One now and then hears people say that peace is best kept by not having anything to fight with, which would be true if all were equally deficient in the weapons of war. But so long as there is a single predatory power in the world, armed for strife or plunder, one must be armed for defence or else submit to spoliation. The surest way for a great city to keep peaceable is to have an armed police and of the nation to have a powerful army and navy strategically placed. France and Austria have hated Germany for more than a generation, yet do not attack her. Why? Is it not because she is ready to wage war at the firing of a shot? England has had but one European war since the time of Napoleon, yet she has no friends on continental Europe. But Europe fears England's militant power by sea and land and lets her alone. Let Germany or England disarm and the spectacle would be given of a greater Caesar in a greater Senate house, ringed in a circle of his enemies and lying at last at the foot of some Pompey's pillar "which all the while ran blood."

Suppose the United States had in this sea ten battleships, eight armored cruisers, flotillas of torpedo destroyers and all the adjunctive engineering of war? Suppose it had strategically fortified all its outposts and had men enough to garrison them? In such cases does any one suppose, considering the enormous wealth in money and other resources possessed by America, that Japan would lightly treat her dignity? The menacing words which are known to have been addressed to Washington by Tokio took their tone from the temporary helplessness of America's vast and rich possessions in this sea. Such words would never have been addressed to Great Britain; that they can be safely directed to us is our own fault and one which we are in duty bound to atone for.

In forts and ships are America's best guarantee of order and peace. We have spent \$440,000,000 on the Philippines and left them naked to the attacks of any one. One-tenth of that sum, used for ships and forts, would have protected them. As things stand, the islands are an incentive to bloodshed; as things ought to be, if we are to retain them at all, they should guarantee America's peace in the Pacific as well as Gibraltar and Malta, the rendezvous of mighty fleets and the camp of strong brigades, now safeguard England's peace in the Mediterranean.

THE WAIKIKI REGATTA.

The regatta to be held at Waikiki on New Year's day is a move in the right direction of promotion work and well deserves the support of the community. Such an event can not fail to impress visitors with Hawaii's semitropic charm and this, in itself, is a thing eminently desirable.

Tourists do not come here to enjoy the metropolitan in diversion or spectacle. This they can find done much better in the land from which they hail. On the contrary, they are seekers after a new thing in the line of entertainment and the more the program of amusement breathes of the life, spirit, and customs of the land to which they have journeyed, the better are they satisfied.

The Pa-u Riders' Festival and the Cowboys' Carnival, properly worked up and advertised on the mainland, are events which would not fail to draw many tourists this way.

In the same category is the Waikiki Regatta; indeed there seems to be no reason why it should not become the chiefest of them all.

Aquatics rank first in Hawaii's list of sports. The amphibious native is a waterman unexcelled in the world. He is a fish in the water and a god in a canoe. The premier paddlers, swimmers and surf-board manipulators of this and the other islands, assembled together, could furnish an exhibition which would well repay a trip from the Coast to witness.

The coming regatta will, of course, be more or less of an experiment. It is being arranged at short notice and the brunt of the work is being done by two or three enthusiasts. It is an event, however, which should develop with each succeeding celebration and which is sufficiently attractive to become a yearly fixture.

Hawaii's most valuable promotion assets are those with which nature has endowed her. The coming regatta at Waikiki will be staged midst the land's signal charms and in the canoe-racing and surf sports, the stranger in the land will, to a very considerable extent, see the ancient water pastimes of an ancient people represented as they used to be and amid surroundings of sea, sky, palm and promontory, unchanged in themselves, since Hawaii's olden days.

THE COERCION OF CITIZENS.

It is surprising if a citizen of this Territory can not seek, by lawful means, to prevent a transfer of public land which he and thousands of other citizens concur in believing would be contrary to public policy, without exposing his private property to the risks of a punitive lawsuit.

The situation is this: Senator McCandless does not approve of disposing of a dual estate on the island of Lanai to one man when a thousand people might be settled on it. Protests availing nothing, he has taken out an injunction to prevent the mischief being done. Believing as he does, what could be more natural and proper than for him to follow the course he chose? None other was at hand and the one he availed himself of had been provided by law for just such cases. Yet Governor Carter says that if Senator McCandless were to stop the proposed transfer, and cause the government pecuniary loss, he, the executive, would direct a suit against McCandless to recover damages.

If the boat were on the other leg and Senator McCandless, as a citizen, should sue the Governor personally for all losses caused the Territory by acts of his administration, the Governor and the court would probably hold that the plaintiff's law was very bad. But, morally speaking, the Governor's law is no better. It is a gag law, if it exists at all; a despotic and coercive law; a law designed to protect the government in courses which, as in this instance, would oppose the common welfare, violate the spirit of the limited-lease and acre clause of the Organic Act and deprive the home-seeker of opportunities in accord with the trend of American institutions.

Is it possible that the citizens and taxpayers of Hawaii can not reserve their own land for their own purposes, if they want to, without being sued for the act by their own officials? The idea seems as insulting as it is absurd.

According to late mail advices Senator Bailey of Texas is liable to get "23" for his alleged financial coquetry with "The System." His opponents announced, the first of this month, that an investigation of his reputed connection with the Waters-Pierce and Standard Oil companies would be made by the Legislature when it met in January. They declared that if the charges were sustained Bailey's defeat would be certain.

The House Committee on Japanese legislation, Congressmen Hayes, Kahn and McKinlay, may be trusted to propose anything, however incendiary, which will win the approval of the most Californians.

HILO'S POSSIBILITIES.

Hilo has much at stake in the proposed breakwater, the improving chances for which may be called the best possible news for the second city of this Territory. To have a secure port means something more to Hilo than an enlarged commerce; for in that event the building of a railroad along the Hamakua and Kohala coasts, would probably follow. Nor would railway communication with Kona be long delayed.

A large population, much business activity and wealth, ought to be the natural state of the metropolis and chief seaport of an island so great in area and so fertile as Hawaii. Doubtless there is no other coast so rich, agriculturally, as that which "captains" Hawaii's chief plantations. It is one of the world's garden places. Scientifically tilled, the big island could, in the production of sugar, coffee, pineapples, bananas, sisal, rubber, tobacco, cattle, fruit, and ordinary farm products, become as rich, in proportion to size, as Jamaica was a century ago; and the building of a port and of connecting railroads, would inspire just that sort of development.

No one can visit Hilo and its back country without recognizing the splendid future of the place. Hilo is the capital and chief entrepot of a region larger than the state of Rhode Island. Unlike the physical conditions of that commonwealth, every arable acre of Hawaii may be utilized during each month of the year; and despite the wide belts made useless by lava, the soil in sight ought to produce more in volume of crops and return more in profits, than the soil of the New England state we have named. When that time comes, as it must, Honolulu will have to fight for its primacy.

PURSUING MRS. EDDY.

McClure's has been unfortunate in advertising its December story of the life of the Rev. Mary Baker G. Eddy, the discoverer and founder of Christian Science, with a picture, purporting to be hers, taken in 1882, of a much older woman than Mrs. Eddy appeared to be in a photograph which she sat for in 1886. Evidently McClure's joins the New York World in the belief, that Mrs. Eddy, if living at all, is more infirm than her friends are willing to concede, so much so, in fact, as to be helpless in the hands of trustees who may or may not be directing her business affairs with propriety.

The article about Mrs. Eddy, however, if as apocryphal as her published picture, will not illuminate the subject much. According to several affidavits the picture is really one of Mrs. Sarah C. Chevallier, who died two years ago. The deceased woman's son is among those who attest that fact.

Being so far out of the way as to Mrs. Eddy's looks, McClure's may find itself still further afield in its description of that eminent woman's sequestered life, especially as the writer confesses that, in preparing it, he had practically no assistance from Christian Scientists themselves.

There is a distinct flavor of muck-raking in the policy towards Mrs. Eddy by McClure's and the World which their readers ought to discourage. The founder of Christian Science is a woman who harms no one and her army of devoted followers may be trusted to see that her business affairs, if they need looking after, are honestly conserved. As to her physical and mental condition, so long as it does not jeopardize any public interest, that is no affair of the newspapers. From the manner in which the venerable lady is being pursued one might think that she was in quite another form of the life-insurance business than the one which engrosses her benevolent thoughts.

The volcano is a fine spectacle, but the knockers are at work, as usual, trying to keep tourists from seeing it. These winter visitors are wanted in town for the sake of what they will spend, and it seems to be a matter of indifference to many of our people if they go away in the end and say that there is nothing to see in Hawaii but Honolulu. The wisdom of enchanting strangers with Hawaii's natural marvels ought to be plain to a child, but it seems not to be understood by some of our business men.

The ruling of Secretary Straus in the South Carolina immigration case will be pleasant news to island planters who, if the law had been defined in the opposite way, might have had to gather up the Suverie's passengers and send them back.

BISHOP WILLIS TO HAVE A NEW POLYNESIAN DIOCESE

The London News of December 8, says: "It has been decided to establish a new diocese for Polynesia. The Primate of New Zealand, who sails for his home this week, has been in communication, while in England, with the Archbishop of Canterbury and the Bishop of London on the subject, and the archbishops have their hearty support. The new See will include the Fijian, Tongan and Samoan groups."

Local churchmen say that the new diocese will be in charge of Bishop Willis.

CRIMINAL CASES.

A nolle prosequi was granted, on motion of Deputy Attorney General Prosser, by Judge Lindsay in the case of Kee Long, who was indicted on Dec. 5, for manslaughter. Defendant was charged with shooting Kum Chin at Waipio, Ewa, on Nov. 24, so that he died the same day. A new indictment charging the same offense was presented to which Kee Long was allowed to reserve his plea until January 2. His bail bond was fixed at \$5000.

The plea was also continued to the same date of Lau Tong Piu and six others, charged with assaulting Tam Ping with deadly weapons, to wit, hoes and iron bars.

Alex. Garner also had his plea reserved, with bail fixed at \$500, for assault upon Brady Clement with a hatchet. Judge Lindsay overruled the demurrer of Joe Clark to indictment for selling liquor unlawfully in his cafe and set his plea for January 3. His bail had previously been fixed at \$500.

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